

# **Beaver Brook Wildlife Area**

[Program Page](#)

**Other Plans:** [Interim Forest Management Plan, 1986 Master Plan \(Non-Compliant with Ch. NR 44, Wis. Adm. Code\)](#)

## **Property Overview**

Beaver Brook Wildlife Area (1,964-acres) is located less than a mile southeast of Spooner in Washburn County. In 2003, 586 acres were acquired that was formerly a cranberry operation. Partnering with DOT, 81.5 acres of cranberry beds and a 65.5-acre flowage was restored to allow Beaver Brook, which connects to the Yellow River, to flow freely.

Beaver Brook is a [Class I](#) trout stream for both brook and brown trout, fed along its course by 10 spring ponds and many bank seeps. Beaver Brook flows into the Yellow River on the north end of the property. The mouth of Beaver Brook and a section of Randall Creek are both within the property. Two lakes include 17-acre Harrison Lake at the north end, and 18-acre Lutz Lake on part of the south end. Numerous wetlands associated with the brook, springs and lakes can be found throughout the property.

## **Facilities and Recreation Management**

Due to its proximity to Spooner, the property is a popular destination for public use activities including: hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and wildlife viewing. Five miles of hiking and cross-country ski and trails are present on the property. An artesian well on the property is a very popular feature with the public.

The Wild River State Trail runs along the western edge of the property that is used for running, hiking, biking, horseback riding, dog sledding, ATVing, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing.

## **Natural Resources Management**

Management activities include timber harvest, prescribed burns, invasive species control, instream trout habitat improvement and surveys, beaver population control and dam removal for trout habitat management. See the IFMP noted above for additional resource management objectives.

### **Special Attributes:**

Primary Sites are identified by the department for special consideration in the planning process because they generally encompass the best examples of 1) rare and representative natural communities and 2) documented rare species populations with opportunities for restoration or connections. Such sites warrant high protection and/or restoration consideration during development of a master plan. One primary site has been identified on the Beaver Brook Wildlife Area.

- Beaver Brook Pines (240 ac)



## Challenges & Opportunities

Accommodating all desired recreational uses is a challenge. In recent years, a request has been made to develop mountain biking opportunities throughout the wildlife area. Those opposed expressed concerns that this use will conflict with the purpose of the land for fish, wildlife and related recreation. Additionally, a new policy regarding dates when ski trails may be groomed is being explored. Concerns exist that late season hunter, fisher and trapper use may be negatively impacted by the motorized disturbance. The department has received complaints that the ski trail has negatively impacted hunting, fishing and trapping when an access road was closed to allow skiing. The road closure is no longer allowed.

Unauthorized ATV use occasionally occurs within the wildlife area and is a recurring challenge for property managers.

